**Childrearing –**

**Who Will You Listen to?**

The Bible does not give parents a handbook of specifics for use in all applications. But it does give you des-criptives of how it’s done: constantly, daily, repeatedly, steadily, consistently, personally, devotedly, sacrificially, willingly, lovingly.

One descriptive the Bible never uses: casually.

There are lots of good materials available for modern Christian parents in books, videos, etc. towards applying this rule. You just have to make sure of the worldview being expressed is grounded in reality!

Some authors and lecturers who claim to have a biblical message are really just worldly psychologists speaking “Christianeze” while really teaching modern, self-esteem-driven theories. This is no more than experimenting with the latest of man’s ideas on your children.

One very neat little guide – the Roman Road. It consists of a selection of verses from the book of Romans that spells out the basics of the gospel. It can be used for evangelism, but it also needs to apply to your worldview and your view of directing your children.

The gospel speaks to your child’s world - his wants and desires, his hopes and aspirations, his morals and motives, and his friends and relationships.

And then, it also applies to how you must interact with all of that.

***The Roman Road***

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Rom. 3:23)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23a)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Rom. 10:13)

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Rom. 12:1-2)

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**Why**

**Scripture Memorization**

**is Important**

The Bible is the most important subject you will ever study. Why?

Because unlike ancient literature, this book is the living word of God. Unlike mathematics, science, and art - which will all pass away - the Word of God will never pass away. Unlike some of the things you will study throughout your life, this subject will never become irrelevant to you.

No matter what you go on to do in your life this book will affect you in all things. All through your life you will be grappling with the truths of this book and testing them against your own thoughts, words and deeds.

Depending on what you do with the words of this book you will either go to heaven or you will go to hell.

When you are on your deathbed, you will not look for, recall, or want to be comforted with the defense of Socrates, the history of Heraclitus, the orations of Sophocles, or the principles of micro-economics, engineering, or the far-reaching implications of space travel. You will cling to the words of this book, and the more you know them, believe them and trust them, the greater your hope will be.

(from “Introduction to A Survey of the Old Testament” curriculum by David G. Barker)

**A Good Parenting**

**Rule of Thumb:**

**Ages 0-5 – Critical Training Period**

Introduction to the world –

who’s who, what’s what

Introduction into moral training

for obedience

but also for a moral conscience.

You are to train not out of

a lack of patience,

you are to train toward

giving your child

the gift of self-control.

Introduction into theology:

who God is, who Christ is,

what sin is,

what the purpose for marriage

(mommy/daddy) is,

& that he, also,

must be a Christian

& only marry a Christian.

The more

you properly discipline

in this stage

the less

you will have to do it later

& the more effective you will be

at it all through

your child’s growing years.

**Ages** **5-10 – Critical**

**Discipling Period**

Discipline gets their attention.

You cannot train someone who

is not paying attention;

& without discipline, he is not

going to pay attention.

Discipling is training of the heart -

- athletics trains the body, mostly

(1 Tim. 4:8)

- education trains the mind,

mostly

- but remember your worldview!

(Jer. 17:9)

the sinful nature,

the sinful world.

- Everyone

is trying to reach the heart

of your child

You take this charge

seriously.

When & how often do you disciple?

constantly, daily, repeatedly,

steadily, consistently, personally,

devotedly, sacrificially, willingly,

lovingly.

Introduction into ecclesiology:

- what the church is,

why it is important

- becoming a confessing member

- finding opportunity to serve

**Ages** **11-21ff – Critical**

**Coaching Period**

Train now for adulthood:

give the facts of sexuality now

reinforce the moral conscience

and prepare for the goal

of marrying only another

Christian

embrace the calling/duty

of raising his own

children.

Athletics

- learn to deny self & buffet

the body

- submit to authority,

- follow orders,

- learn humility

(pray for the experience

of being on a losing team!)

- recognize greatness in general

& the hard work of

achievement

Education

toward the contributing

to society and not just

depending on it;

strive to increase the pool of

knowledge/achievement;

pass something else along

to those who come after you.